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# Borough of Gravesend



1938

## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1938



# Borough of Gravesend



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# PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

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THE MAYOR (Councillor W. C. FLETCHER, J.P.)

Alderman J. A. AXCELL (*Chairman*)

Alderman MORRIS (*Vice-Chairman*)

Alderman HARRINGTON, J.P.	Councillor OVERY
Councillor HODGE	„ COWELL
„ ROBSON	„ MCKENZIE, J.P.
„ Dr. HAGARD	* Mrs. CROFT
„ Mrs. COLE, J.P.	* Mrs. GRAY
„ WILKINSON	* Miss BERREY
* Mrs. MCKENZIE	

\* Co-opted Members of the Maternity and Child Welfare Committee now incorporated with the Health Committee.

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## STAFF.

### *Clerks :*

Mr. S. V. TONGE  
Mr. A. H. BAKER  
Mr. D. V. PROTHERO  
Mrs. B. M. CREIGHTON

### *Health Visitors :*

Miss S. A. CROSS, S.R.N., S.C.M.  
Miss C. M. BOVINGTON, S.R.N., S.C.M.  
\* Miss J. KEY, S.R.N., S.C.M.

### *District Sanitary Inspectors :*

† Mr. R. BROOKS, Cert. R.S.I.  
Mr. O. B. DODDS, Cert. S.I.B.  
† Mr. L. G. OWEN, Cert. S.I.B.

### *Chief Sanitary Inspector and Inspector under the Food and Drugs Act*

† Mr. J. E. BAKER, M.S.I.A., C.R.S.I.

### *Assistant Medical Officer of Health :*

(a) D. DESMOND, D.P.H., M.B., B.CH.

### *Medical Officer of Health :*

C. D. OUTRED, D.P.H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., L.D.S.(ENG.)

\* Part time Health Visitor and School Nurse.

† Also holds Meat and Food Inspector Certificate.

(a) Commenced duties July, 1938.





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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
TOWN HALL,  
GRAVESEND.

30th June, 1939.

**The Worshipful, The Mayor, Aldermen  
and Councillors of the Borough of Gravesend.**

MR. MAYOR, MRS. COLE AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my 28th Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year ending December, 1938.

The report has been compiled as in previous years based on the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

Statistical Tables will be found following the written matter at the end of the Report.

The Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector under Article 19 of the Sanitary Officers Order, 1926, is embodied in the report together with the reports of the Assistant County Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Price and the V.D. Officer, Dr. Nicol.

I desire to express my thanks to the above Officers and also to Miss Hammond and Mr. Gough for returns of Births and Deaths.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Baker, my Senior Sanitary Inspector, and the whole of my staff for their loyal co-operation and support during the year.

I am,

Mr. Mayor, Mrs. Cole and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. D. OUTRED.





# Annual Report

## VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR, 1938.

Population : Census 1921, 31,137 ; 1931, 35,400.

„ Estimated to mid-year 1938—By Registrar General, 39,740

	1936.	1937.	1938.
Area of the Borough in acres (land and inland water) .....	4,619	4,619	4,619
Density of Population, persons per acre .....	8.5	8.5	8.60
Marriages, No. 349 Marriage Rate per 1,000 population .....	9.6	9.09	8.53
Births, No. 694 (net) Birth Rate per 1,000 population .....	15.68	15.17	17.46
Deaths, No. 441 (net) Death Rate per 1,000 population .....	11.18	11.55	11.09
Infantile Deaths, No. 46 Rate per 1,000 Live Births .....	37.2	53.4	66.28
Death Rate from :—			
Tuberculosis (all forms) per 1,000 population .....	.55	.83	.37
Cancer per 1,000 population .....	1.70	1.59	1.50
Heart Disease (including Aneurysm and other circulatory diseases) per 1,000 population .....	2.05	2.58	2.71
Violence (including suicide) per 1,000 population .....	.50	.60	.67
Respiratory Diseases (including Pneumonia) per 1,000 population .....	1.0	1.5	1.45
Infantile Diarrhoea (under 2 years) per 1,000 population Live Births .....	8.1	11.0	10.08
Puerperal Sepsis, per 1,000 Live Births .....	1.62	3.3	2.88
Other Puerperal Causes, per 1,000 Live Births .....	1.62	1.66	0.00

## THE AREA OF THE BOROUGH.

	Land.	Inland Water.	Tidal Water	Foreshore.	Total Acres.
Gravesend .....	700	0	70	7	777
Milton .....	869	6	152	27	1,054
Denton and Chalk .....	2,429	12	337	10	2,788
	3,998	18	559	44	4,619

## POPULATION OF THE BOROUGH.

Census :	1901	.....	27,196	1911	.....	28,115
	1921	.....	31,137	1931	.....	35,400

The extension of the Borough Boundary became effective as from April 1st, 1935 and includes the Parishes of Denton, Chalk and part of the Parishes of Northfleet, Cobham and Ifield.

The estimated population to mid-year 1938, as given by the Registrar General is 39,740, and the Birth, Death and other rates have been calculated on this figure.

It is expected that when the next census is taken a substantial increase in the population will be revealed.

Some two thousand new houses have been erected in the Borough during the last three years

## RATEABLE AND ASSESSABLE VALUE.

Gross Value (1st October, 1938)	.....	.....	£401,065
Rateable Value	.....	.....	£335,897
Yield of 1d. Rate	.....	.....	£1,320
Rates (to 31st March, 1939)	.....	.....	12/0 in the £

## ADOPTIVE ACTS.

The following Acts (among others) are in force within the Borough :—

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 :—  
(Parts II, III, IV, V).

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.  
(Part II, III (34-38, 43-51).  
(Part IV, 52-60, 62-66).  
(Part V, VI, VII (79, 81, 85, 86).  
(Part VIII, LX, X (92, 93, 95).

Public Health Acts, 1925.  
(Parts II, III, IV, V).

Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899, to 1935.

## BYE-LAWS AND REGULATIONS.

- 30 Aug., 1893—Common Lodging Houses.
- 30 Aug., 1893—Nuisances.
- 25 Sept., 1893—Decent Conduct : Conveniences.
- 13 Oct., 1893—Removal of Offensive Matters.
- 12 Jan., 1926—Fish Frier.
- 14 April, 1926—Cesspools in connection with Buildings.
- 5 Sept., 1930—Slaughter Houses.
- 10 Jan., 1931—Deposit of Litter.
- 15 Sept., 1932—Improvement Area No. 1.
- 15 Sept., 1932—Houses Let in Lodgings.
- 4 Oct., 1933—Improvement Area No. 2.

29 May,	1934—	„	„	No. 3.
1 Oct.,	1934—	„	„	No. 4.
1 Oct.,	1934—	„	„	No. 5.
1 Oct.,	1934—	„	„	No. 6.
1 Oct.,	1934—	Houses Let in Lodgings.		
1 Jan.,	1935—	Improvement Area No. 7.		
1 Jan.,	1935—	„	„	No. 8.
1 Jan.,	1935—	„	„	No. 9.
1 Nov.,	1936—	New Streets and Buildings.		
1 May,	1938—	Good Rule and Government.		
25 May,	1938—	Swimming Pool Regulations.		
10 Nov.,	1938—	Cemetery Regulations.		

## MARRIAGES.

The number of marriages registered in the Borough during the year was 349; 255 were solemnised in churches and chapels and 94 in register office.

This gives a marriage rate of 8.53 per 1,000 population as compared with 9.09 for the previous year.

The following figures show the number and rate for the past five years :—

		1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Number of Marriages	...	337	342	378	359	349
Rate per 1,000 population	...	9.6	8.66	9.6	9.09	8.53

## BIRTHS.

The total number of live births registered of residents in the Borough was 694 (371 males and 323 females) giving a Birth Rate of 17.46 per 1,000 of the present population as estimated by the Registrar General. This figure compares with a rate of 15.17 for the year 1937.

Twenty-seven live births were registered as illegitimate. Twenty-five still births were registered none of which were registered as illegitimate.

One hundred and sixteen births were transferred to other Districts and 48 were transferred "in."

Births notified under the Notifications of Births Act were as follows :—851 live births and 26 still births, total 877. These were attended by General Practitioners in 339 cases, and by midwives in 538 cases.



The excess of births over deaths, showing a natural increase of population for the year 1938, was 253.

The number of Births and corresponding Rates for the past 10 years will be seen by reference to Table I. at the end of this Report.

Births are required to be notified within 36 hours of birth, to the Medical Officer of Health of the District in which the birth takes place and to be registered by the Registrar of Births within six weeks.

### ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS.

Of the total births registered (694) 27 were illegitimate, (13 males and 14 females), giving a rate of 3.89 per cent. Only one death of an illegitimate infant was registered under one year of age. No still births were registered as illegitimate.

The illegitimate rate of 3.89% is higher than the previous year The respective rates for the past 10 years were as follows :—

1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
3.7	2.1	4.2	2.8	3.5	4.2	2.8	4.05	3.37	3.89

### DEATHS.

Four hundred and forty-one deaths were registered during the year (229 males, 212 females), giving a Death Rate of 11.09 per 1,000 population, which compares with 11.0 for the “ Smaller Towns ” of England and Wales.

Sixty-four deaths of residents were transferred “ in ” from other areas and 107 were transferred “ out ” to their respective districts.

The chief certified causes of death were as follows :—Heart Disease, 93 ; Cancer, 60 ; Cerebral Haemorrhage, 41 ; Congenital Diseases, 30 ; Senile Decay, 30 ; Bronchitis, 26 ; Pneumonia, 25 ; Suicide and Other forms of Violence, 23 ; Tuberculosis, 15 ; Circulatory Diseases, 14 ; Nephritis, 9 ; Other Respiratory 7 ; Diarrhoea, 7 ; Digestive Diseases, 6.

One hundred and ninety-eight deaths occurred at the age of 65 years or over, which was 44 per cent. of the total deaths.

The age periods at death of those over 65 years were as follows :—

65 yrs. under		70 and under		75 and under		80 and under		85 and under		90 and under		Over 95 yrs.
70 yrs.		75 yrs.		80 yrs.		85 yrs.		90 yrs.		95 yrs.		
Sex	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	M. F.	
	16 17	22 25	20 30	11 26	9 15	3 2						2
Total	33	47	50	37	24	5	2					

The number of deaths and the respective death rates for the last ten years will be seen by referring to Table I at the end of this report.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Forty-six deaths were registered of infants under 1 year of age, 26 males and 20 females. This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 66.28 per 1,000 births, compared with 32 deaths or a Rate of 53.4 for the year 1937.

This appears to be high when compared with the Rate for the 148 "Smaller Towns," of England and Wales which is 51 or 53 for the whole of England and Wales respectively.

The chief certified causes of death were as follows :—

Premature Birth, 11 ; Atelectasis, 6 ; Pneumonia, 5 ; Marasmus 5 ; Enteritis, 4 ; Injury at birth, 4 ; Malformations 3.

Of the total, 34 deaths occurred under one months of age, and one infant was registered as illegitimate.

The number and rates for the last 10 years are given hereunder :—

Year	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
No.	27	27	22	41	34	33	27	23	32	46
Rate	41.7	39	33.0	67.8	57.7	60.4	45.9	37.2	53.4	66.28

## MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Two deaths were registered under this heading from Puerperal Sepsis, giving a Maternal Mortality rate of 2.78 per 1,000 live and still births. This compares with 2.97 for the whole of England and Wales.

The deaths which both occurred in General Hospitals were certified as follows :

- (i) a, Pneumonia ;      b, Puerperal Septicaemia.
- (ii) a, Puerperal Septicaemia ;      b, Puerperal  
Peritonitis ;      c, Infected uterine fibroid.

Under the Public Health Act, 1936, Puerperal Fever is made notifiable as Puerperal Pyrexia.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

One hundred and eighty persons were certified as suffering from notifiable infectious diseases.

The number of persons admitted to the Hospitals for isolation and treatment was 130, and of these 18 were either admitted for observation, or the diagnosis was not confirmed as a notifiable infectious disease and in consequence the notification was withdrawn.

The notified cases were Scarlet Fever, 82 ; Diphtheria 27 ; Small-pox 4 ; Pneumonia, 18 ; Erysipelas, 13 ; Puerperal Pyrexia 5 ; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 26 ; Other Forms of Tuberculosis, 5.

Deaths from notifiable infectious diseases numbered 16 ; 15 from Tuberculosis and 1 Small-pox.

The schedule of notifiable infectious diseases under the Public Health Act 1936 includes Small-pox, Cholera, Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, Scarlet, Typhus, Enteric, Relapsing Fevers and Puerperal Pyrexia.

The following diseases are also compulsorily notifiable :— Plague (1900), Tuberculosis all forms (1913), Cerebro Spinal Fever and Acute Poliomyelitis (1912), Ophthalmia Neonatorum (1914), Malaria and Dysentery, Acute Primary Pneumonia and Acute Influenzal Pneumonia (1927).

Following the Puerperal Fever and Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations 1926, when Puerperal Pyrexia was entered as a notifiable infectious diseases, the Public Health Act of 1936 has rescinded the notification of Puerperal Fever and all such cases are now notifiable as Puerperal Pyrexia.

The following cases of notifiable infectious diseases occurred during the past ten years :—

	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933
Diphtheria .....	41	19	9	25	84
Small-pox .....	7	4	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever .....	67	108	51	52	88
Erysipelas .....	17	16	3	10	8
Enteric Fever .....		3			
Puerperal Fever .....	1		1		3
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	1	1	1		4
Cerebro Spinal Fever .....	1	1	1		
Poliomyelitis .....		1			1
Encephalitis Lethargica .....			1		1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .....	2				4
Tuberculosis Pulmonary .....	39	38	30	33	37
Tuberculosis Other Forms.....	15	15	10	5	5
Pneumonia .....	27	9	18	14	13
Total .....	218	215	125	139	249



			1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Diphtheria	.....	.....	60	24	2	11	27
Scarlet Fever	.....	.....	114	68	32	57	82
Small-pox	.....	.....					4
Erysipelas	.....	.....	12	7	8	6	13
Enteric Fever	.....	.....					
Puerperal Fever	.....	.....	3	6	1		
Puerperal Pyrexia	.....	.....	1	2		1	5
Cerebro Spinal Fever	.....	.....					
Poliomyelitis	.....	.....	2				
Encephalitis Lethargica	.....	.....			2		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	.....	.....	1	1	5		
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	.....	.....	21	22	33	39	26
Tuberculosis Other Forms	.....	.....	14	4	8	7	5
Pneumonia	.....	.....	14	12	18	8	18
Total			242	146	109	129	180

### SCARLET FEVER.

Eighty-two persons were notified as suffering with Scarlet Fever 45 males and 37 females, which shows an attack rate of 2.06 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of cases removed to the Gravesend Isolation Hospital was 57. In addition there were four children admitted to the Isolation Hospital with suspected scarlet fever but the diagnosis was not confirmed and are therefore not included in the above number.

No deaths occurred. The majority of the cases following a mild and normal course without any complications arising.

The age periods affected were as follows :—

	Under 1		1 and		5 and		15 and		25 and	
	year of		under		under		under		under	
	age.		5 yrs.		15 yrs.		25 yrs.		45 yrs.	
Sex	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	1		2	6	38	28	2	3	2	
Total	1		8		66		5		2	

## DIPHTHERIA.

Twenty-seven cases of diphtheria were notified as compared with 11 for the year 1937. The attack rate was .67 per 1,000 of the population.

Five cases occurred in January and three in February, the remainder were distributed throughout the year.

Twenty-six cases were admitted to the Infectious Hospital and in addition to these there were five persons who were sent in for observation but proved to be negative.

All cases made satisfactory recovery without any complications arising.

The age groups affected were as follows :

1 and under 5 years, 5 ; 5 and under 15 years, 21 ; 25 and 45 years ; 1.

## THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The present Staff at the Borough Isolation Hospital consists of a Matron, 2 Staff Nurses, 3 Assistant Nurses and 2 Probationer Nurses ; an Engineer (whose duties include attention to the furnaces, disinfection plant and assisting in the garden) and a Gardener.

The number of persons who were admitted to the Infectious Hospital for treatment, isolation or observation, numbered 116, namely :—Small-pox 4, Diphtheria 26, Scarlet Fever 57, Erysipelas 3, Pneumonia 3, Puerperal Pyrexia 3, Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1, Chicken Pox 2, Measles 1, Septicaemia, 2, for Observation 13.

One child removed from the General Hospital developed Chicken Pox and another child who was admitted from the Public Institution proved to be suffering from the same disease.

Three cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were removed, two of whom suffered from the disease in a very acute form, responded to treatment and made a satisfactory recovery.

Three deaths occurred in the Hospital : one, a woman of 49 who was admitted suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis in a very advanced stage, a young woman aged 23 suffering from small-pox, and a girl of 17 suffering from an acute form of tonsillitis and septicaemia.

## SMALL POX.

The first case of small-pox in the Borough of Gravesend was a man who was removed to the Port of London Authority's Hospital at Denton from an incoming ship (ss. "Cathay") from Australia and India on March 4th. This patient died on the 7th March. This ship had called at Plymouth but the diagnosis was not made until arrival off Gravesend. I understand this person did not show any vaccination marks.

On March 19th a male aged 34, living in Milton Hall Road, was notified with the disease and was at once removed to the Gravesend Isolation Hospital. He had been vaccinated in infancy, and no evidence could be obtained that he had been in contact with the previous case.

He was discharged cured on May 4th.

On April 25th a male aged 60, from Queen Street, was removed to the Gravesend Isolation Hospital and was found to be suffering from small-pox. He recovered and was discharged on 11th September. Four definite vaccination marks were present on the left arm; he had been vaccinated in infancy.

On May 11th a female, aged 23, living at Milton Hall Road, was also removed suffering from this disease to the Gravesend Isolation Hospital. She died on May 20th, no signs of previous vaccination were to be seen.

A man aged 38, living at Gloucester Road was removed to the Infectious Hospital on June 6th, and was discovered to be suffering from small-pox. He recovered and was discharged on 8th September. This man had been vaccinated in 1917, 21 years before.

Although very careful enquiries were instituted both by your Medical Staff and the Ministry of Health Inspectors, it could not be proved that any of the above patients had known one another or had been in contact with persons previously notified with this disease.

In all cases every person who had been in contact was immediately visited and vaccinated and kept under daily observation for 16 days.



## TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of Primary notifications of persons suffering from Tuberculosis during the year was 31, 26 Respiratory and 5 "Other Forms."

In addition to the above, 7 notifications of transfer were received of persons suffering from the disease having come to reside within the Borough. Eleven persons were notified to other Districts upon leaving the Town.

The following table shows the sex and age periods of the cases notified :—

Sex	Total at all ages.		1 and under 5 yrs.		5 and under 15 yrs.		15 and under 25 yrs.		25 and under 45 yrs.		45 and under 65 yrs.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Respiratory	15	11	1				3	3	7	7	4	1
Total	26		1				6		14		5	
"Other Forms"	3	2	1		1	1		1	1			
Total	5		1		2		1		1			
Totals	31		2		2		7		15		5	

The following gives the source from which notification was received :—

Tuberculosis Officer	.....	.....	12
General Practitioners	.....	.....	12
General Hospitals	.....	.....	4
Sanatoria	.....	.....	2
Public Assistance M.O.	.....	.....	1

During the year 48 notifications were received of persons who received a course of treatment in Special Tuberculosis Hospitals or Sanatoria.

The total number of persons residing within the Borough as shown by the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year was :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Respiratory	82	52	134
"Other Forms"	22	22	44
	<hr/> 104	<hr/> 74	<hr/> 178

Only fifteen deaths were registered from Tuberculosis giving a death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis of .38 1,000. This compares with 28 deaths or a rate of .83 for the year 1937.

## Gravesend Tuberculosis Dispensary.

I am indebted to Dr. Price, the Tuberculosis Officer in charge of the Gravesend Dispensary, for the following particulars concerning the treatment of patients during the year. It should be noted that the figures relate to a wider area and are not solely confined to the residents within the Borough of Gravesend.

### New Cases seen at the Dispensary during 1938.

	Adults		Children	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Pulmonary ...	31	17	1	2
Non-Pulmonary ...	1	2	2	2
Negative ...	28	23	15	11

### Contacts examined—but not included in the above.

	Adults		Children	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—
Non-Pulmonary ...	—	—	—	—
Negative ...	4	11	18	17

Total number of attendances to the Dispensary made by patients during the year was ... 892

Number of patients who received a course of treatment in Sanatoria during the year was ... 91

## CANCER.

Deaths from Cancer during the year numbered 60, and as in previous years the females exceeded the males, namely, 36 females and 24 males. The mortality rate is therefore 1.50 per 1,000 as compared with 1.59 for the year 1937.

For the past 10 years the number of deaths and the corresponding rates are shown hereunder :—

Year	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
No. of cases	64	49	52	51	60	49	64	67	63	60
Rate	1.8	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.7	1.4	1.6	1.7	1.59	1.50

The following table gives the organs affected, the sex and age at death :—

<i>Organ Affected.</i>	<i>Males Ages at Death.</i>	<i>Females Ages at Death.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Breast .....		44, 59, 63, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 72, 73, 82	11
Digestive Organs	51, 58, 74, 78, 83	58, 58, 61, 69, 83	10
Generative Organs	69, 73	51, 53, 53, 54, 57, 59, 59, 71,	10
Stomach .....	56, 57, 58, 58, 64 65, 71, 71, 76	44, 48, 57, 58, 62, 64, 74, 78	17
Rectum .....	57, 64, 66		3
Mouth .....	86	70	2
Lung .....	53, 62		2
Bladder .....		61	1
Tongue .....	61		1
Neck .....	66		1
Brain .....		45	1
Ear .....		83	1
Total .....	Males 24	Females 36	60

### BACTERIOLOGICAL.

The facilities of the County Laboratory are placed at the disposal of the General Practitioners, the Institutions and the Public Health Services for the examination of material sent for determining the presence of disease.

During the year extensive use has been made of these services which are entirely free of charge and the following table shows the results obtained from the specimens dispatched. :—

<i>Specimens for Disease Suspected.</i>	<i>By General Practitioners.</i>			<i>By Public Health Services.</i>		
	<i>Neg.</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Neg.</i>	<i>Pos.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Tuberculosis .....	78	8	86	57	11	68
Diphtheria .....	127	26	153	278	37	315
Septicaemia .....	33	2	35	—	20	20
Ring Worm .....	—	—	—	23	8	31
Total .....	238	36	274	358	76	434



## VACCINATION.

I am indebted to Miss Hammond, the Vaccination Officer for the following particulars as to the number of children under 14 who were vaccinated in the Borough during the year 1938, under the Vaccination Acts, 1867-96 :—

Number of successful vaccinations	.....	1,633
Number of declarations of objection	.....	245
Certificates of postponement	.....	13

The figure showing the number of successful vaccinations for the year 1938, is a considerable increase over the number for the previous year which can probably be accounted for by the fact that Small-pox again appeared in the town.

Year after year the Medical Officer of Health, in his Annual Report had emphasised the great risk the residents of this Borough run in the association with persons connected with ships trading with foreign ports.

Although there is no direct evidence to prove any connection with the case which was landed at the Port of London Hospital at Denton from the s.s. " Cathey " it must be accepted that there must have been some indirect contact for the disease to have infected four persons when there was not another case of small-pox recorded in the whole Country at that time.

Every year a considerable number of persons are reported as having been in contact with cases of Small-pox aboard ships from Eastern waters, and it was a typical instance in the case of the man landed from the " Cathey " where the unfortunate victim had been infected in a foreign port and not having been vaccinated, arrived in this Country before he was discovered to be suffering from the disease.

It is important to record that the one death from Small-pox which occurred at the Isolation Hospital was of a person who had never been protected by vaccination, while another patient who contracted the disease in a very acute form, and, although he had not been vaccinated for over 40 years made a complete recovery.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

During the year 877 live and still births were notified ; 34 births were not notified. The notifications indicated that 538 were attended by Midwives, and 339 by Doctors ; 116 births were notified as non-residents and were transferred “ out ” and 48 were transferred “ in ” from other districts.

The Health Visitors in their report on the visitation of homes give the following figures relating to their respective districts :—

### Gravesend (Miss Cross).

Visits to infants under 1 year of age .....	754
Visits to infants over 1 year and under 5 .....	1076
Total visits to Expectant Mothers .....	142
Number of persons having charge of Foster Children .....	1
Number of Foster Children on Register .....	1
Number of visits to Foster Children .....	12
Investigation of cases of Difficult Maternity .....	18
Enquiries <i>re</i> Adoption Orders .....	2
Other visits .....	10

### Milton (Miss Bovington).

Visits to infants under 1 year of age .....	1672
Visits to infants over 1 year and under 5 .....	1747
Total visits to Expectant Mothers .....	148
Number of persons having charge of Foster Children .....	4
Number of Foster Children on Register .....	5
Number of visits made to Foster Children .....	19
Enquiries <i>re</i> Adoption Orders .....	6
Investigations of Difficult Maternity Cases .....	8
Other visits .....	8

### Denton and Chalk (Miss Key) (Part time School Nurse).

Visits to infants under 1 year of age .....	721
Visits to infants over 1 year and under 5 .....	1513
Visits to Expectant Mothers .....	296
Number of Persons having charge of Foster Children .....	1
Number of Foster Children on Register .....	1
Number of visits made to Foster Children .....	4
Other visits .....	20

### Welfare Centres.

There are three Child Welfare Centres in the Borough (1) Windmill Street, serving Central Gravesend, (2) Whitehill, in the King's Farm Area, and (3) Denton, serving Denton and Chalk Districts. Each of these Centres are open on the following afternoons and are available for Expectant or Nursing Mothers and their children up to 5 years of age to seek advice or assistance from the Medical Officer in charge or of the Health Visitors :

Windmill Street Centre, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays,  
2.30 to 4 p.m.

Whitehill Centre (King's Farm) Thursdays 2.30 to 4 p.m.

Denton and Chalk (Gordon Mission) Wednesdays 2.30 to 4 p.m.

The total attendances at all three Centres for the year 1938 are included in the figures given below :—

Total attendances of children under 1 year of age	5646
Total attendances of children between the age of 1 and 5 years .....	3942
Attendances of individual children under 1 year of age who attended for the first time .....	435
Attendances of children who attended for the first time between the age of 1 year and 5 years .....	94
Ante Natal Attendances .....	259

The following ailments were met with at the Welfare Centres during the year :—

Astigmatism and existing eye strain .....	8
Skin diseases, boils, abscesses, etc. ....	30
Teething complications .....	34
Intestinal trouble .....	11
Debility .....	42
Deformities congenital and otherwise .....	5
Deaf and Dumb .....	1
Dental caries .....	4
Hernia .....	21
Enlarged glands .....	4
Feeding complications .....	148
Otitis Media .....	5
Bronchial complications .....	37
Nose and Throat diseases .....	16
Requiring Circumcision .....	40
Miscellaneous .....	22

### Complications of Maternity.

During the year 12 persons were admitted to the Gravesend and North Kent Hospital under the scheme for the treatment of Difficult Maternity cases. On the recommendation of the General Practitioner in attendance, these cases are admitted and the Town Council, under the agreement, accept responsibility for the payment of £3 per week per case.

The circumstances of the family are investigated and after taking into consideration the number of children dependent, the income of the husband, Rent, etc., etc., an amount is assessed for recovery from the husband in those cases where the husband is considered to be in a position to contribute.



### Free Milk Distribution.

Four hundred and seventeen individual families were supplied with free dried or fresh milk under the provisions of the Maternity and Child Welfare Order of the Ministry of Health.

The Order, No. 1072, dated 1930, empowers the Council to grant free milk and medical necessities to expectant and nursing mothers or their infants up to 5 years of age. In certain circumstances, as in the case of illness, allowances of milk have been made to children under 5 years where the income of the family has exceeded the scale of income allowance for the time being in operation.

During the early part of the year there was a considerable number of men on the unemployment role, due no doubt to the shortage of casual employment, and therefore a number of children of these casual workers were in receipt of free milk for a prolonged period. There are a number of regularly employed men who are in receipt of free milk by reason of the fact that the number of dependent children brings their wage earnings within the limit of the scale.

The following quantities of milk and medical necessities were distributed free during the year, 1938.

Fresh Milk	..... 4,480 pts.	Dried Milk	..... 11,094 lbs.
Virol	..... 186 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lbs.	Malt & Oil	..... 74 lbs.
Marmite	..... 21	Glucose	..... 38 pkts.
Honicose & Malt	72 lbs.		

### Puerperal Sepsis.

Cases of Puerperal Sepsis, where no accommodation can be provided for in the home, are, on the application of the General Medical Practitioner in attendance, removed to the Infectious Hospital, where adequate and proper nursing facilities exist for treatment.

### Municipal Midwifery Service.

Since the introduction of this new Scheme which came into operation on 1st October, 1937, under the organisation of the Kent County Council, considerable improvement has been experienced. One very great advantage is shown in the closer co-operation between the Municipal Midwives and the Child Welfare Clinics and the Ante-Natal Clinic. The Nurses recommend mothers to make the fullest use of these services and attend the Ante-Natal Clinic when necessary with the expectant mothers by whom they are engaged.

There are five Municipal Midwives resident in the Borough who are salaried officers of the Kent County Council and who are engaged by persons at recognised fees in accordance with the County Council scheme.

Some 280 confinements were attended by these Midwives in the Borough during the year 1938.

## DENTAL SERVICES.

### (Maternity and Child Welfare)

Report by R. A. TRAN, Esq., L.D.S.

With the appointment of a whole time Dental Officer, a scheme for the dental treatment of Expectant, Nursing Mothers and Infants was put into operation in July, 1938, and therefore the following report of the Dental Surgeon, Mr. R. A. Tran, covers only six months of the year under review :—

“ There were 18 attendances made at the Welfare Centres for the benefit of Expectant and Nursing Mothers, and also for the benefit of the pre-school children, who voluntarily sought advice and dental treatment. No routine method of inspection of all the cases attending the Centres has been attempted and does not seem to be called for. Notice of intended attendances of the Dental Surgeon is posted at the Centres and the Health Visitors and the Voluntary Workers use their valuable influence in advising Mothers to seek advice either for themselves or for their children. We have many applications too from Mothers who are not eligible for treatment under the scheme, which cases we only give courteous advice to and advise them to go to Private Practitioners.

“ The number of Mothers who sought advice at the Centres was 66, of which number 60 were referred for treatment. 39 pre-school were also inspected and 36 referred for treatment.

“ The number of separate sessions allocated to treatment of these cases was 12. Gas cases being treated during the latter part of the normal Education Gas Sessions. Altogether 41 Mothers were treated at the Clinic with a total of 104 attendances for treatment, the number of children treated was 32 with a total of 53 attendances for treatment.

“ The treatment carried out was chiefly extractions which numbered 478 teeth for Mothers and 96 temporary teeth for the children. The number of Gas cases dealt with was 35 for Mothers and 26 for children. In addition 15 fillings were done for Mothers and 28 temporary teeth fillings for children.

“ The number of dentures inserted was only 5, which is naturally a small number, as a reasonable interval has to elapse before dentures can be inserted after extractions and this service had hardly been in operation long enough for many dentures to be completed, we have, however, a considerable number of Mothers on our books who are merely waiting the necessary time before their dentures can be inserted.

“ This service is still very new but I feel confident that it will be greatly increased in the very near future.”



## Home Helps.

At the latter part of the year the Council put into operation a scheme to provide attendance upon the working class mothers during their confinement. Two women were appointed to undertake the household duties, which includes the preparing of food for the family, looking after the other children in the house, doing the necessary washing and attending to the mother.

The object of this is to ensure that proper arrangements are made for the mother to be relieved of the worries and household duties while she is confined and is not left for long periods during the day with no one within call. The Home Helps are engaged on a retaining fee while they are not employed but when they are working they remain at the home from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. or until such time as the husband or some responsible person is able to relieve them.

No cases were attended under this scheme up to the end of the year but it is anticipated that it will be a boon to those who are not able to afford to engage a Handy Woman to see to them during the period of their confinement. Many have taken advantage of this scheme in the early part of the year 1939.

## The Ladies' Voluntary Committee.

In connection with the Child Welfare Centres, the Ladies' Voluntary Committee consisting of 15 Members, render very excellent service at the different Centres.

Among the many important duties they perform, they undertake the sales of Milk Foods, Virol, etc., on five afternoons per week. They keep the accounts of these sales and register the attendances of the mothers and provide tea for the mothers attending. From time to time they arrange social functions for the purpose of raising funds for some of the needy persons attending the Centres and help in obtaining baby clothes, etc.

Great credit is due to these Ladies for their organisation and the time they devote in carrying out these services.

The amounts of the foods, etc., sold at cost price at the three Welfare Centres during the year amounted to a turnover of £1,064 and were as follows :—

Cow & Gate	.....	6,184 lbs.	Robolein	.....	96 lbs.
Lactogen	.....	120 lbs.	Maltoline	.....	440 tins
Virol	.....	1,464 $\frac{1}{2}$ -lbs.	Ostermilk	.....	706 lbs.
Virolax	.....	95 tins	Trufood	.....	784 lbs.
Lactagol	.....	18 tins	Marmite	.....	560 lbs.
Humanised Trufood		1,238 lbs.	Almata	.....	48 lbs.
Ovaltine	.....	2,377 tins	Brestol	.....	30 tins

## NURSING HOMES REGISTRATION ACT.

There are three Nursing Homes registered in the Borough and two Institutions (The Gravesend Hospital and the Public Assistance Institution) which are exempt from the requirements of the Act as regards registration.

No applications for registration were made during the year.

Periodical visits were made to these registered homes and they appeared to be properly conducted.



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS ACT, 1908 PART I  
AND 1932.**

Five persons are on the Register as Foster Parents eligible to receive children boarded out for reward.

Eight children were maintained under the supervision of the Council's Officers and the number of visits made during the year was 35. In all cases the children were found clean and properly cared for.

The appointed protection officers under this Act are the Medical Officer of Health and his Staff of Health Visitors.

**HOUSING.**

**(1) Inspection of Dwelling-houses.**

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses <b>inspected</b> for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	1802
	Number of inspections made for that purpose	5224
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under the preceding heading) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	391
	Number of inspections made for that purpose	2345
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	34
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	964

**(2) Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	934
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**(3) Action under Statutory Powers.**

A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	8
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after the service of formal notices :—	
	(a) by owners	6
	(b) by local authority in default of owners	3
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7

(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which such defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a)	by owners .....	6
(b)	by local authority in default of owners .....	1
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .....	34
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .....	1
(3)	Demolished in anticipation of Demolition Orders .....	Nil
D.	Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .....	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .....	Nil
(4)	<b>Total Number of houses owned by the Local Authority</b> .....	1291
(5)	<b>Number of new houses built during the year :—</b>	
(a)	by the Local Authority .....	Nil
(b)	by other bodies or persons .....	193

**Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding :—**

(a)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .....	33
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein .....	33
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein .....	278
(b)		Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .....	7
(c)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .....	20
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases (persons displaced) .....	97

## THE PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY.

As in past years little comment can be made on the water supply, apart from the unvarying high standard of purity and the abundant supply which is always available.

The source of supply is obtained in the old portion of the Borough from the Gravesend & Milton Water Company and in the Denton and Chalk areas from the Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Company.

Arrangements exist for samples to be taken and submitted for bacteriological analysis each month and it will be seen by reference to the Analyst's reports which will be found in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Section of this Report that in the majority of instances results are satisfactory.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are now only two Common Lodging Houses in the Borough and during the year 22,554 lodgers were accommodated, of whom 22,253 were males and 301 females.

35 Males were between the ages of 8 and 12, and 105 females were under 8 years of age.

The Lodging Houses are under the supervisoin of the Police and are maintained in a cleanly condition and properly conducted.

## INQUESTS.

The Police have made enquiries into 52 sudden deaths and 33 deaths from accident and other causes, making a total of 85.

His Majesty's Coroner, G. E. Penman, Esq., has presided over 33 inquests and verdicts have been returned as follows :—

- 28 Accidental Death.
- 3 Suicide.
- 2 Found Drowned.

## NEW BATHING POOL.

I am indebted to Mr. Hill, B.A., A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.M. & C.E., the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, for the following particulars :—

A new Open-air Bathing Pool was opened on 18th July and has accommodation for 800 bathers at any time, and further provision can be made if necessary.

The main pool is 150 feet long by 75 feet wide and has two shallow areas and a diving pit. The diving apparatus includes the following diving boards: 1-metre fixed; 1-metre spring; 3-metre fixed; 3-metre spring, and a 5-metre fixed and a chute.



Wide surrounds and large areas provided for sun-bathing, whilst a spectators' terrace surrounds the site.

On the first floor of the building a Cafe and Spectators' Gallery is provided, affording a splendid view of the whole site.

The Children's Paddling Pool, 50 feet by 50 feet with its own surround is separated from the main pool by a terrace.

Bathing by floodlight will be a feature for the warm summer evenings, and there are car parking facilities.

The 400,000 gallons of water in the pools is filtered, aerated, sterilised and heated by the most up-to-date and efficient plant, ensuring bathing with perfect safety and an even temperature, with a complete change of water every six hours.

During the season the following persons used the Pools :—

Bathers .....	53,606
Spectators .....	12,324
Schools .....	449
Complimentary .....	569
Galas .....	2,438
<b>Total</b>	<b>69,386</b>

### GRAVESEND V.D. CLINIC.

I am indebted to Hamish Nicol, Esq., F.R.C.S., the Surgeon in charge of the Gravesend Clinic, for an abridged report of the work carried out during the year under the administration of the Kent County Council. It should be noted that this report is not confined to the Borough of Gravesend but included non-residents and the surrounding areas.

#### New Patients—Gravesend.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Syphilis .....	8	3	11
Soft Sore .....	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea .....	9	5	14
Non-venereal .....	20	9	29
	37	17	54

Total No. of new patients from all areas .....			212
Average No. of Gravesend patients under daily treatment or observation during 1938 .....	53	23	76
Total attendances of Gravesend patients .....	2,041		
„ „ all areas .....	5,248		

## Discharges (all districts).

### Discharged cured :—

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Syphilis	.....	.....	7	7	14
Soft Sore	.....	.....	—	—	1
Gonorrhoea	.....	.....	58	21	79
Non-venereal	.....	.....	64	45	109

### Defaulted before final test of cure.

			Male	Female	Total
Syphilis	.....	.....	3	—	3
Gonorrhoea	.....	.....	6	—	6

### Defaulted before completion of treatment.

Syphilis	.....	.....	3	5	8
Gonorrhoea	.....	.....	5	8	13

## New Patients.

Married	.....	.....	39	per cent.	
Single or Widowers	.....	.....	61	„	„
Contracted from prostitutes	.....		69	„	„
“ amateurs ”	.....		19	„	„
consorts	.....		10	„	„
Deny sexual intercourse	.....		2	„	„
Contracted at Gravesend	.....		11	„	„
Rest of Kent	.....		15	„	„
Essex	.....	.....	11	„	„
London	.....	.....	7	„	„
Elsewhere in U.K.	.....		13	„	„
Abroad	.....	.....	43	„	„
History of previous V.D. infection (excluding relapses)			19	„	„

## Occupations :

Seamen	.....	.....	59	„	„
Motor Drivers	.....	.....	1	„	„
Labourers	.....	.....	25	„	„
Others	.....	.....	15	„	„

# Report of the Sanitary Inspector's Department for the Year 1938

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## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND REVISITS.

### Public Health Acts :

Dwelling-houses inspected	...	...	...	1411
Re-inspections	...	...	...	1468

### Housing Acts :

Dwelling-houses inspected...	...	...	...	391
Re-inspections	...	...	...	1954

### Visits to Other Premises :

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	1394
Butchers' shops (for inspection of meat)	...	...	...	169
Dairies and Milkshops	...	...	...	186
Cowsheds	...	...	...	82
Provision Shops	...	...	...	354
Greengrocers	...	...	...	564
Bakehouses	...	...	...	50
Dining Rooms	...	...	...	74
Fishmongers	...	...	...	192
Butchers' shops	...	...	...	256
Ice Cream Premises	...	...	...	54
Other Food Preparing Premises	...	...	...	36
Offensive Trades—Fish frying	...	...	...	93
Gut Scraping	...	...	...	34
Smoke Observations	...	...	...	4
Shops Acts	...	...	...	248
Factories (with power)	...	...	...	98
Factories (without power)	...	...	...	35
Outworkers	...	...	...	0
Stables	...	...	...	65
Piggeries	...	...	...	58
Urinals	...	...	...	204
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	991
Schools	...	...	...	44
Places of Entertainment	...	...	...	38
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	335
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	154
Housing Act, 1936—Measurement of houses	...	...	...	32
Enquiries <i>re</i> Overcrowding	...	...	...	136
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	710

Total visits of all kinds	...	...	...	11914
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## NOTICES SERVED AND COMPLIED WITH.

### Under Public Health Acts (in respect of dwelling houses).

Written notices (informal)	...	...	...	428
Verbal notices (informal) ...	...	...	...	256
Statutory notices (served subsequent to informal notices)				7
Notices complied with ...	...	...	...	679
Notices cancelled (Owners intend to demolish and construct 3 new cottages)	...	...	...	6

### Under Housing Acts (in respect of dwelling houses).

Written notices (informal)	...	...	...	259
Verbal notices (informal) ...	...	...	...	21
Statutory notices (served subsequent to informal notices)				8
Notices complied with ...	...	...	...	270

### Miscellaneous.

Written notices (informal)	...	...	...	9
Verbal notices (informal) ...	...	...	...	153
Notices complied with ...	...	...	...	160

## NUISANCES AND DEFECTS REMEDIED.

Accumulations Removed	.....	.....	.....	.....	25
Ashbins Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	427
Ceilings Repair and/or Cleansed	.....	.....	.....	.....	339
Cellars sealed in	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Cesspools—New Constructed	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Enlarged	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Filled in	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Covers provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Chimney Stacks—Repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	26
New Pots Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Coppers—New Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	28
Coal Sheds Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Dampness—Roofs Repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	90
Guttering Repaired or Renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
Hopper Heads Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
R.W.P's Repaired or Renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
External Walls Repaired	.....	.....	.....	.....	35
External Walls Repointed	.....	.....	.....	.....	63
External Walls Rendered	.....	.....	.....	.....	44
Sub Floor Ventilation Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	41
Damp Proof Courses Provided	.....	.....	.....	.....	18
Dry Areas Constructed	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Doors and Door Sills Repaired or Renewed	.....	.....	.....	.....	69
Dirty Persons Cleansed	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Dirty Houses—Cleansed by Tenants	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Cleansed by L.A. in default	.....	.....	.....	.....	1

Drainage—Drains Repaired .....	3
Drains Relaid .....	13
Drains Partly Relaid .....	19
Drains Unstopped .....	28
Inspection Chambers Provided .....	16
Soil and Vent Pipes, New Provided .....	5
Soil and Vent Pipes, Repaired .....	3
Soil and Vent Pipes, Removed .....	5
Soakaways Constructed .....	9
External Woodwork, etc., Painted .....	41
Floors Repaired or Relaid .....	71
Light and Vent. of Staircase and Rooms Improved .....	52
Milking Sheds (new) Provided .....	3
Outhouses Demolished .....	4
Overcrowding Abated .....	20
Paving Relaid or Repaired .....	70
Privies Filled in .....	2
Sinks, New Provided .....	19
Sink or Bath Waste Pipes Renewed or Repaired .....	32
Stoves Renewed or Repaired .....	62
Staircase Handrails or Balusters Provided or Repaired .....	69
Stair Treads Repaired .....	32
Urinals—New Provided .....	2
Repaired .....	2
Cleansed .....	13
Verminous Rooms Disinfested .....	188
Walls, Internal—Repaired, and/or Repapered, etc. ....	399
Wash Houses—New Constructed .....	1
Repaired .....	16
Water Supply—Internal Supply Provided .....	8
Water Pipes, etc., Repaired .....	4
Water Closets—Number Dealt With .....	117
New Constructed .....	11
Repair and/or Cleansed .....	90
New Pans .....	29
Pans Cleansed .....	7
Flushing Cisterns Provided .....	19
Flushing Cisterns Repaired .....	6
Windows or louvres Provided .....	15
Windows—Renewed or Repaired .....	110
Sash Cords Provided .....	104
Other Matters .....	74

## **FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.**

One hundred and thirty-three inspections of factories were made during the year. In 19 instances it was found necessary to give notice to remedy faults or defects.

Fifty inspections were made of the Bakehouses, which are 22 in number, and in 9 instances faults or defects were found.

Description.	No. of Inspections.	No. of Defects.	Remedied.
Bakehouses ...	50	9	8
Factories (with power)	98	14	14
Factories (without power)	35	5	2
	183	28	24

### SHOPS ACTS, 1912-1934.

Shops have been kept under supervision for infringements of the above Acts.

During the year 248 visits were made to shops. Infringements were found in 29 instances and all were remedied.

The following faults or defects were remedied :—

Provision of—Forms and Records	...	...	...	27
Water closet accommodation	...	...	...	2

Shopkeepers were advised as to the appropriate forms to obtain and 71 forms were provided at the request of this Department.

### CESSPOOL AND PAIL SYSTEM.

Cesspool emptying is carried out by means of a Dennis cesspool emptying machine with a capacity of 1,000 gallons and the sewage is disposed of at the Sewage Disposal Works.

During the year 2,220 tons of sewage were removed from 236 cesspools as against 830 tons from 99 cesspools the previous year.

There are now approximately 30 pails in use in the Borough. Seven pails are emptied twice weekly by the Health Department, the remainder being dealt with by the owners or occupiers.

### HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL.

Five Shelvoke & Drewry freighters and two Eagle-Thornycroft vehicles are employed in the collection of house and trade refuse, including one "spare" vehicle. One of the Shelvoke & Drewry freighters referred to was purchased in July, 1938.

The refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping and is still being tipped at the Gravesend Co-operative Society's Sports Grounds in Old Road East. It is estimated that this tip will last for a further two years.

During the year 5,471 loads of refuse weighing approximately 10,962 tons (including 574 loads of trade refuse weighing approximately 854 tons) were collected and tipped.



The following table shows the comparison with previous years :—

Year.		Loads.	Tons.
1931	...	4,824	9,922
1932	...	4,810	9,450
1933	...	4,890	9,957
1934	...	5,141	9,826
1935	...	5,615	10,202
1936	...	6,171	11,017
1937	...	5,570	11,530
1938	...	5,471	10,962

### **SALVAGE FROM REFUSE.**

#### **Waste Paper :**

Waste paper and cardboard is collected by the Corporation from business premises and private houses and then pressed into bales ready for collection by the Thames Board Mills, Ltd., who are under contract with the Corporation to purchase this material.

The total weight of paper, etc., collected and sold during the year was 476 tons 15 cwts. 0 qrs. 11 lbs., as against 440 tons 11 cwts. 3 qrs. 26 lbs. the previous year.

#### **Bottles and Jars :**

Bottles and jars, salvaged from house refuse at the tip, are sold to a glass bottle manufacturers' agent, who collects them periodically ; 261 gross were sold during the year as against 253 in the previous year.

### **DRAIN TESTING.**

Thirty-seven sets of drains were tested during the year, of these 31 were found to be sound and in order and 6 or 16.1 per cent. were found to be defective.

In cases where drains were defective they were repaired or relaid, as necessary.

### **DISINFECTION OF PREMISES.**

Two hundred and thirty-three rooms were disinfected and 166 batches of bedding and clothing were removed to the Isolation Hospital and disinfected and returned or, in some cases, destroyed.

Fifty-seven library books found on infected premises were withdrawn, the libraries being compensated.

### **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES AND SCHOOLS.**

The public conveniences and sanitary arrangements of the schools under the control of the Education Committee have been cleansed and flushed daily by the Health Department during the past year.

The conveniences attached to licensed premises have been kept under supervision and 204 inspections were made. Nine urinals were cleansed at the request of this Department.

The conveniences at 14 licensed premises were cleansed by the Health Department in consideration of the fact that they remain open for the use of the general public.

## RATS ORDERS.

Forty-five premises were reported as being infested with rats during the year. Inspections were made in each case and the occupiers advised as to the best procedure.

The total number of visits made was 335. The premises were cleared in 44 cases and 8 were still under observation at the end of the year.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Twenty-nine samples of water, 15 from the Higham & Hundred of Hoo Company's supply and 14 from Gravesend & Milton Water Company's supply were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. They were all reported to be satisfactory.

Three samples were also taken and submitted for chemical analyses and the last two reports received were as follows :—

N.B.—All numerical results expressed in grains per gallon.

	Gravesend Water Company's Supply.		Higham & Hundred of Hoo Company's Supply	
Appearance	...	...	Clear	Clear
Colour	...	...	Green-blue	Green-blue
Smell	...	...	Normal	Normal
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	1.33	1.26	
Phosphoric Acid in Phosphates	...	None	None	
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	0.45	0.16	
Ammonia	...	None	0.0011	
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.0028	0.0028	
Oxygen absorbed in 15 minutes	...	Trace only	Trace only	
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours	...	0.014	0.016	
Hardness before boiling (total)	...	19.8	14.6	
Hardness after boiling (permanent)	...	2.5	3.1	
Total solid matter	...	25.90	17.78	
Microscopical examination of deposit	...	Slight and unimportant	Slight and unimportant	
Metallic impregnation	...	None	None	

The above results are satisfactory in both cases and indicate water organically pure and free from sewage percolation.

The Microscopical Examination is also satisfactory.

## SWIMMING BATHS.

Four samples of water taken from the Swimming Bath were submitted for bacteriological examination and were reported in each case to be satisfactory.

## MILK SUPPLY.

There are 4 dairy farms in the Borough. 82 visits of inspection were made to the farms concerned, and it was found necessary in 9 instances to serve notices to either cleanse or repair the premises. In addition new milking sheds were constructed at two of the farms.

There are also 74 milkshops and dairies in the Borough and 186 inspections of these were made.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

The following table shows the number of samples taken and the results obtained on bacteriological examination :—

<i>Sample.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Satisfactory.</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory.</i>
Accredited .....	3	2	1
Pasteurised .....	10	9	1
Ordinary .....	20	12	8
Total .....	33	23	10

Twenty-four samples were also submitted for examination for the presence of tubercle bacilli and in five cases a positive result was obtained. The farms involved were in each case visited by the Kent County Council Officials and the infected animals traced and slaughtered.

### Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following licences were issued during the year under the above order :—

#### “ Tuberculin Tested ” Milk :—

Bottling licences ...	...	...	...	...	2
Dealer's licence ...	...	...	...	...	1
Dealer's supplementary licence	...	...	...	...	2

#### “ Pasteurised ” Milk :

Pasteurisers' licences ...	...	...	...	...	2
Dealers' licences ...	...	...	...	...	3
Dealer's supplementary licence	...	...	...	...	1

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are five private slaughter houses in the Borough and the visits numbered 1,394. It was found necessary in three instances to call the attention of the occupier to the necessity for cleansing the premises, and the work was carried out.



## PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

The provisions of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, have been enforced. Notice of slaughter is required and the inspection of meat carried out as far as possible at the time of slaughter.

The following table shows the number of carcasses inspected during the year and the results of the inspections :—

### Carcasses Inspected and Condemned.

	<i>Cattle (exclud- ing Cows)</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number known to have been killed .....	374	28	193	2063	2862
Number inspected .....	374	28	190	1923	2852
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	3	1	—	2	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	14	3	1	3	10
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis .....	4.5	14.2	.52	.26	.35
<b>Tuberculosis only.</b>					
Whole carcasses condemned .....	3	1	1	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .....	46	13	4	—	102
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis .....	13.1	50	2.6	—	3.6

### FOOD SURRENDERED AND CONDEMNED, 1938.

4 Bovine Carcasses and Offal .....	(Tuberculosis)
3    "           "           "           " .....	(Johnes Disease)
1    "           "           "           " .....	(Natural death—broken neck)
7 Forequarters Beef .....	(Tuberculosis)
141 lbs. Beef .....	(Tuberculosis)
26 Bovine Heads .....	(23 Tuberculosis)
	(1 Bruised)
	(2 Actinomycosis)

24 Bovine Tongues	.....	.....	(22 Tuberculosis)
			(1 Bruised)
			(3 Actinomycosis)
44 Bovine Lungs	.....	.....	(Tuberculosis)
26 Bovine Livers	.....	.....	(12 Tuberculosis)
			(8 Flukes)
			(2 Cirrhotic)
			(3 Abscesses)
			(1 Cavernous Angioma)
15 Bovine Mesenteries	.....	.....	(Tuberculosis)
2 Udders	.....	.....	(1 Tuberculosis)
			(1 Mammitis)
5 Bovine Spleens	.....	.....	(Tuberculosis)
7 Bovine Kidneys	.....	.....	(5 Tuberculosis)
			(2 Parasitic)
1 Calf Carcase and Offal	.....	.....	(Tuberculosis)
3 Calves' Livers	.....	.....	(2 Tuberculosis)
			(1 Abscess)
2 Calves' Lungs	.....	.....	(Tuberculosis)
2 Sheep Carcases and Offal	.....	.....	(Emaciated and Dropsical)
2 Sheep Livers	.....	.....	(1 Parasitic)
			(1 Flukes)
20 lbs. Mutton	.....	.....	(Bruised)
3 Pigs' Carcases and Offal	.....	.....	(Tuberculosis)
85 Pigs' Heads	.....	.....	(Tuberculosis)
34 Pigs' Lungs	.....	.....	(26 Tuberculosis)
			(3 Pneumonia)
			(5 Pleurisy)
22 Pigs' Livers	.....	.....	(17 Tuberculosis)
			(4 Cirrhotic)
			(1 Parasitic)
35 Pigs' Messenteries	.....	.....	(Tuberculosis)
10 Pigs' Spleens	.....	.....	(Tuberculosis)
51 lbs. Pork	.....	.....	(Tuberculosis)
12 lbs. Pork	.....	.....	(Bruised)
4,520 lbs. Beef	.....	.....	(Unsound)
260 lbs. Rabbits	.....	.....	(Unsound)
47½ lbs. Lambs' Livers	.....	.....	(Unsound)
4 lbs. Lamb	.....	.....	(Unsound)
25½ lbs. Ham	.....	.....	(Unsound)
3,360 lbs. Potatoes	.....	.....	(Unsound)
238 lbs. Cod	.....	.....	(Unsound)
56 lbs. Mackerel	.....	.....	(Unsound)
140 lbs. Crabs	.....	.....	(Unsound)
70 lbs. Dabs	.....	.....	(Unsound)
146 lbs. Bacon	.....	.....	(Unsound)
12 lbs. Ox Tongue	.....	.....	(Unsound)
6 lbs. Corned Beef	.....	.....	(Unsound)
13 lbs. Ox Liver	.....	.....	(Unsound)
3 lbs. Chicken	.....	.....	(Unsound)

## WEIGHTS.

		Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	lbs.
Beef and Organs	...	6	12	1	4
Mutton and Organs	...		2	—	1
Pork and Organs	...		11	1	6
Miscellaneous	...	1	18	1	20
Total		9	4	—	3

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The provisions of this Act relating to the humane slaughtering of animals have been complied with. The number of slaughtermen holding licences at the end of the year was 21. One additional licence was granted during the year.

## FOODS AND DRUGS (ADULTERATION) ACT, 1928.

120 samples were taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and submitted to the Public Analyst. Particulars of the samples and a summary of the result is shown in the following table :—

Samples.	Number of		Result of Analyses.	
	Formal.	Informal.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
Butter	8	—	8	—
Coffee	2	—	2	—
Cornflower	—	2	2	—
Cream (Tinned)	—	2	2	—
Custard Powder	—	2	2	—
Ground Almonds...	—	2	2	—
Jam	—	5	5	—
Lard	3	—	3	—
Lemonade Powder	—	2	2	—
Margarine	3	—	3	—
Milk	63	2	65	—
Mince Meat	—	2	2	—
Raisins	3	—	3	—
Sardines	—	5	5	—
Sausages, Beef	5	—	5	—
Sausage Meat	1	—	1	—
Shredded Suet	—	2	2	—
Sultanas	3	—	3	—
Tea	3	—	3	—
	94	26	120	0



## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

The work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority. Infested rooms and furniture are sprayed with "Ris" or "Pyagra" insecticides and two or more sprayings (as found necessary) are applied with intervals of from 3 to 7 days.

Where necessary, belongings of tenants are sprayed before removal to Council houses and again on moving into the houses.

Council houses are regularly visited by the Sanitary Inspectors, who report any signs of infestation to the Estate Department and disinfection is immediately carried out.

Particulars of action taken during 1938 :—

	<i>Council Houses.</i>	<i>Other Houses.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Number of houses found to be infested .....	61	31	92
Number of houses disinfested .....	61	31	92

## MERCHANDISE MARKS ACT, 1926.

Observation has been kept on shops in the Borough to ensure food being marked with an indication of origin in accordance with the provisions of the Act and Orders made thereunder.

It was necessary in some instances to warn shopkeepers for not exhibiting proper labels, but on the whole it was found that the marking conditions were being adhered to.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Bye-laws are in force in the Borough for regulating the trade of Fish Frying.

There are 20 premises registered as offensive trades, consisting of 19 fish frying establishments and 1 gut scraping factory.

Ninety-three visits of inspection to fish frying establishments and 34 visits to the gut scraping factory were made.

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

### Public Health Act, 1936, Section 85.

One case of person and clothing verminous. Undertaking of defendant to go to cleansing station was accepted.

### Public Health Act, 1936, Section 83.

One case verminous premises. Undertaking to allow the Council to enter on premises to carry out cleansing was accepted.

Table I. Vital Statistics of whole District during 1938 and previous Years.

Year.	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Regis- tered in the District		Transferable Deaths.		Nett deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non- residents registered in the District.	of Resi- dents not registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age		At all ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1000 nett Births.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1929	33780	651	647	18.8	463	13.6	68	46	27	41.7	441	13.0
1930	35000	694	692	19.7	381	10.9	53	47	27	39.0	375	10.7
1931	35490	669	661	18.6	407	11.6	42	28	22	33.0	393	11.2
1932	35800	612	604	16.8	386	11.4	34	24	41	67.8	376	10.5
1933	35180	598	589	16.7	418	11.8	76	56	34	57.7	398	11.3
1934	34790	559	546	15.6	397	11.4	96	63	33	60.4	364	10.4
1935	38130	647	588	15.4	410	12.2	84	56	27	45.9	382	10.0
1936	39340	714	617	15.6	439	11.18	65	66	23	37.2	440	11.1
1937	39460	694	599	15.1	493	14.3	106	79	32	53.4	466	11.5
1938	39740	762	694	17.4	484	12.1	107	64	46	66.2	441	11.09

Table II. Causes of, and ages at, Death during the year 1938.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the district.										Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District
	All Ages.	Under 1 year	1 and under 2 years	2 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	65 and upwards	Hospitals and Institutions	
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
Certified	438	46	8	8	8	17	33	122	196	106	
Uncertified	3							1	2		
All Causes											
Typhoid Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Measles	...	3	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Diphtheria	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Small Pox	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	
Influenza	...	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	
Tuberculosis Resp.	...	13	—	—	—	1	6	5	1	1	
Other Tuberculosis	...	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	
Syphilis	...	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	
Cancer	...	60	—	—	—	—	2	32	26	9	
Diabetes	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	
Cerebral Haemorrhage	...	41	—	—	—	—	1	8	32	10	
Heart Disease	...	93	—	—	—	—	3	32	55	5	
Aneurysm	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	
Other Circulatory Dis.	...	14	—	—	1	1	2	4	6	4	





Table III.

Infant Mortality.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age, for the year 1938.

Cause of Death.			Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
All causes	{	Certified ...	23	4	3	4	34	5		7		46
		Uncertified										
Small Pox	...	...										
Chicken Pox	...	...										
Measles	...	...										
Scarlet Fever	...	...										
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...										
Whooping Cough	...	...						I				I
Diarrhoea	...	...						I				I
Enteritis	...	...		2			2	I		I		4
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...										
Abdominal Tuberculosis	...	...										
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...										
Congenital Malformations	...	...	3				3					3
Premature Birth	...	...	9		2		II					II
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	...	...				3	3	2				5
Atelectasis	...	...	5			I	6					6
Injury at Birth	...	...	4				4					4
Erysipelas	...	...										
Syphilis	...	...										
Rickets	...	...										
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	...	...										
Convulsions	...	...										
Gastritis	...	...										
Laryngitis	...	...										
Bronchitis	...	...								I		I
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...		I			I			4		5
Suffocation, overlying	...	...										
Other causes	...	...	2	I	I		4			I		5
Totals ...			23	4	3	4	34	5		7		46

Nett Births in the Year	{	legitimate	667	Nett Deaths in the year under 1 year of age of	{	legitimate Infants	45
		illegitimate	27			illegitimate Infants	I

Table IV. Infectious Diseases notified during the Year 1938. Showing the age periods and cases removed to Hospital.

Diseases.	Total at all Ages.	At Ages—Years.							Total Cases Removed to Hospitals.
		Under 1 year.	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years	15 and under 25 years	25 and under 45 years	45 and under 65 years	Over 65 years.	
Diphtheria ...	27	—	5	21	—	1	—	—	26
Small Pox ...	4	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	4
Cholera ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ...	82	1	8	66	5	2	—	—	57
Erysipelas ...	13	—	—	1	1	—	7	4	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	5	—	—	—	1	4	—	—	3
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis Lethargica ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis Pulmonary ...	26	—	1	—	6	14	5	—	12
Tuberculosis Other Forms	5	—	1	2	1	1	—	—	3
Pneumonia ...	18	1	4	3	—	3	6	1	4
Totals ...	180	2	19	93	15	27	19	5	112



Table V.

Birth-rates, Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death-rates, and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1938.

England and Wales, London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.

(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns)

	GRAVESEND	England and Wales.	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London.	148 (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	London Administrative County.
	Rates per 1,000 Population				
BIRTHS :—					
Live ... ..	17.4	15.1	15.0	15.4	13.4
Still ... ..	0.62	0.60	0.65	0.60	0.48
DEATH :—					
All Causes ... ..	11.0	11.6	11.7	11.0	11.4
Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers ...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Smallpox ... ..	0.02	0.00	—	0.00	—
Measles ... ..	0.07	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.06
Scarlet fever ...	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Whooping Cough...	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03
Diphtheria ... ..	0.00	0.07	0.07	0.06	0.05
Influenza ... ..	0.05	0.11	0.10	0.11	0.06
Violence ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
NOTIFICATIONS ...					
Smallpox ... ..	0.10	0.00	—	0.00	—
Scarlet fever ...	2.06	2.41	2.60	2.58	2.05
Diphtheria ... ..	0.67	1.58	1.85	1.53	1.90
Enteric fever ...	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.04	0.05
Erysipelas ... ..	0.32	0.40	0.46	0.39	0.46
Pneumonia ... ..	0.45	1.10	1.28	0.98	1.98
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under 1 year of age ... ..	66	53	57	51	57
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age ...	10.0	5.5	7.8	3.6	13.1
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	2.88	0.89	)	Not available	
Others ... ..	0.00	2.19	)		
Total ... ..	2.88	3.08	)		
	Rates per 1,000 Births (i.e., Live and Still)				
MATERNAL MORTALITY :—					
Puerperal Sepsis ...	2.78	0.86	)	Not available	
Others ... ..	0.00	2.11	)		
Total ... ..	2.78	2.97	)		
NOTIFICATIONS :—					
Puerperal fever ...					3.53
Puerperal pyrexia	6.9	14.42	18.08	12.51	15.46









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